



# **NEWS RELEASE**

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

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## **REFURBISHED GREENHOUSE TO OFFER INNER-CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS A NEW BIOLOGY LABORATORY**

Students in Washington, DC, will be afforded a unique opportunity to study horticulture and aquatic ecosystems under a partnership program between the Job Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project involves Job Corps students repairing a dilapidated greenhouse at Eastern Senior High School during October.

The structure, located near RFK Stadium, has not been usable for years due to a lack of funding for repairs. Job Corps students, under tutelage of professional construction trade trainers, will install sheets of plexiglass in the ceiling, build trellises and shade houses, refurbish the electrical system and plumbing, and repair the building's masonry.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie said, "The Job Corps students will be learning valuable skills that will help them get jobs in the building trades while the high school students will get hands-on experience in biology and horticulture supervised not only by their teachers but also by Service biologists."

Under a 3-year-old partnership with Eastern, Service biologists conduct lectures, oversee experiments, arrange field trips to national wildlife refuges and other land management sites, and otherwise instruct and serve as mentors and tutors for students in the fish and wildlife science and conservation curricula.

"Restoration of the greenhouse means that we can expand this partnership program even more," Beattie said. "Students and mentors will be afforded a living laboratory where they can actually witness what they read about in textbooks."

Job Corps is a national program that provides vocational training to at-risk young people, helping them make the transition into the workplace. The Potomac Job Corps Center in Washington is hosting the project with students from four other centers participating. The project began October 3 and will be completed by October 31.

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Members of national construction trade organizations will conduct the on-site training. They include:

- o the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, affiliated with the Westover Job Corps Center of Chicopee, Massachusetts;
- o the International Masonry Institute Apprenticeship and Training Program, affiliated with the Harpers Ferry Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia;
- o the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, affiliated with the Woodland Job Corps Center of Woodland, Maryland;
- o the National Plasterers and Cement Mason's International Association, affiliated with the Potomac Job Corps Center; and
- o the Home Builders Institute, the educational arm of the National Association of Home Builders.

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